

HISPANISH FORK

The canyon, the river and the city of Spanish Fork derived their names from the old Spanish Trail which was thought to run from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Monterey, California, crossing this location. Father Sylvestre Velez de Escalante and Father Francisco Atanacia de Dominguez came down the canyon and camped on the river near the present site of the city in 1776. They were the first white men to ever look upon this valley. Hunters and trappers came later.

Earliest inhabitants known here were the Ute Indians who fished and hunted and supplemented their meat diet with berries and nuts from pine trees, or roots dug from the ground. They also ate crickets and grasshoppers which they drove by swarms into fires to roast. They were a war-like race and often fought fiercely among themselves.

The history of Spanish Fork goes back to the fall of 1850 when two men employed by Enoc Reece came here to care for about 200 head of cattle for him.

By December 1851 settlers on the Spanish Fork River met to organize a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints.

By the summer of 1852 it was felt that there was enough settlers on Spanish Fork River to form a town. By October of 1852 the population had increased to 75 families. The Black Hawk War broke out the following year and a fort was built of adobes, with walls 2 feet thick and 20 feet high. Homes were built inside the walls and there were port-holes built in each compartment of the upper and lower stories. Near the center of the fort was a well and water was drawn by means of log pump.

On January 17, 1855 the territorial legislature granted the city of Spanish Fork a charter.

About 1868 an Indian farm or reservation was established. It contained about 13,000 acres and was located about 3 miles west of Spanish Fork. It included part of what is now known as Leland down to and including the present site of Lake Shore. 8, pp. 377-387.

SALEM

Once known as Pond Town, Salem was first settled by David Crockett and David Fairbanks in 1851. They left Payson in search of a new location and found a natural spring-fed reservoir. Other people followed later. 8, pp. 460-464.

PAYSON

It was first known as Peteetneet because of its location on Peteetneet Creek named for a noted Indian chief who lived in the area.

In the Autumn of 1850 President Young advised a number of families to settle here. So by October 20, three wagons with about 15 persons arrived at the grove of trees known as Nebeker Grove. Here they made camp. Other people followed. Indian troubles caused many hardships and with the outbreak of the Walker War in 1853 some pioneers were forced to tear down their log homes and build in fort style. 8, pp. 434-444.

SANTAQUIN

Benjamin F. Johnson settled on the banks of Summit Creek at the south end of Utah County in the spring of 1851. He wrote to the Deseret News stating that seven houses and about a dozen men now made up the town we call Summit City and hinted that it was a nice area and they wouldn't mind having a few more neighbors. When the Walker War broke out they were forced to move. In 1856 the actual resettling took place. It was settled again by B. F. Johnson and others. 8, pp. 474-483.

GOSHEN

Early in 1857 a little band of pioneers began to build homes for themselves in Goshen valley. Because of savage Indians they were forced to build a wall around their houses which they called the Old Fort. President Young sent Phenias Cook to preside over this new branch. For schooling children used smoothe pieces of wood for slates and charcoal to write with.

Soil was poor in this area and after three years a second location was chosen about 1 mile north; but again a bad choice was made because the ground was full of saleratus which killed the crops. A final move was made to the present site of Goshen. 8, pp. 484-487.